

Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests

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Fire Update

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Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests morning update

<u>Kamiah, Idaho, August 31, 2015</u> – Cooler temperatures and showers slowed the growth of most of the Forests' fires on Sunday. Precipitation varied from trace amounts on the southern districts to .7 near Pierce. Most units also experienced lightning. With warming and drying predicted today and tomorrow, the weather change was a season slowing event, but not a season ending event.

Concerns about public safety due to the explosive growth of numerous large fires spread across the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests prompted a public closure of the Forests, with the exception of the Palouse Ranger District, late Saturday. That closure remains in effect and is being evaluated daily.

To date, the Forests have detected 277 fires which have burned across more than 111,500 acres.

The following is a summary of the major complexes and fires burning across the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests which are not assigned to incident management teams.

South Zone (Salmon River and Red River Ranger Districts)

Name: Red River Complex

Location: South of Elk City, Idaho

Started: August 17, 2015 Cause: Lightning

Total Acreage: 31,800 acres **Containment**: 0% Contained

Fires Originally within Red River Complex: 6 fires

Active Fires within the Complex: Slaughter 100 acres, Lone Park and Crown (combined) 26500 acres, Rattlesnake 1500 acres, Noble Fire 3200 acres, Little Green Fire 1375 acres. Major Events: The Crown and Lone Park Fires have become well established north of the Magruder Road #468 and are impacting the road. They have merged with Little Green. The District is working with the Selway Complex incident management team to manage these fires.

The **Tepee Springs Fire** crossed the Salmon River Saturday and has spread across an estimated 12,000 acres of land managed by the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests. Updates regarding this fire are posted on www.inciweb.org. Information can be obtained by calling 877-683-5560 or sending an email to payettefireinformation@gmail.com.

Central Zone (Lochsa-Powell and Moose Creek Ranger Districts)

Name: Lochsa South Complex

Location: South of Lochsa River from Warm Springs Creek to the Selway River

Started: August 15, 2015 Cause: Lightning

Total Acreage: 5535 acres **Containment**: 0% Contained

Fires Originally within Lochsa South Complex: 12

Active Fires within the Complex: Sponge Fire 3000 acres, Grit Fire 400 acres, Lone Knob

Fire 400 acres, Fire Creek 400 acres, Air Strip Fire 980 acres.

Major Events: Fires received light, spotty precipitation. Structure protection continues for Wilderness Gateway Campground and outfitter area, the Fish Lake airstrip and cabin, and Gold Meadows and Horsecamp cabins.

Name: Wilderness Complex

Location: Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness (much of the Moose Creek Ranger District)

Started: August 4, 2015 Cause: Lightning

Total Acreage: 18115 acres

Fires Originally within the Wilderness Complex: 8

Active Fires within the Complex: Roll Creek 7800 acres, Rock Point 250 acres, Meeker 2400 acres, Baily 1500 acres, Army Mule Fire 5400 acres, Wahoo 650 acres, Wahoo Fire 650 acres.

Major Events: Fires received light, spotty precipitation. Point protection continues for Wilderness cabins, pack bridges and lookouts.

North Zone (Palouse and North Fork Ranger Districts)

Name: Larkin Complex Location: Roughly 30 airline miles NE of Pierce

Started: August 17, 2015 Cause: Lightning

Total Acreage: 4990 acres **Containment**: 0% Contained **Fires Originally within the Complex** (including Wolf Pack Fires): 14

Active Fires within the Complex: Snow Creek Fire 2300 acres, Wolf Pack Fire 980 acres, and

Heather Fire 1370 acres, Minnesaka 225, and Roaring 100.

Major Events: Complex has been assigned to a local incident management team. No update

available this morning.

Name: <u>Scurvy Mountain Fire</u> Location: 28 miles ENE of Pierce, Idaho

Started: August 21, 2015 Cause: Lightning

Total Acreage: 390 acres **Containment**: 0% contained

Major Events: This fire has been assigned to a local incident management team. No update

available this morning.

Due to public safety concerns, all lands managed by the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests are closed to human entry, except the Palouse Ranger District. This closure and fire information is posted at: http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/nezperceclearwater/home. Click on the "Fire Information" icon at the top of the page.

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